

REMARKS

Claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 14-19 and 21-30 are pending in the present application. The currently pending claims are now drawn to the elected subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that the present amendment presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance.

In view of the above and the amendment filed November 1, 2002, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 19, 2002


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Sjøholm et al.

Confirmation No: 9039

Serial No.: 09/779,323

Group Art Unit: 1652

Filed: February 8, 2001

Examiner: M. Monshipouri

For: Use of Acid Stable Protease in Animal Feed

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Sir:

Below is a marked-up version of the amendments made in the accompanying amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 14-19, 22, 25 and 28 have been amended as follows:

14. An animal feed additive comprising

(a) at least one acid-stable protease that has an amino acid sequence that has an amino acid sequence that has an identity of at least 70% to SEQ ID NO: 1-and/or SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) one or more of fat-soluble vitamins, water-soluble vitamins, trace minerals, and/or macro minerals.

15. The animal feed additive of claim 14, wherein the protease has an amino acid sequence that has an amino acid sequence that has an identity of at least 80% to SEQ ID NO: 1-and/or SEQ ID NO: 2.

16. The animal feed additive of claim 15, wherein the animal feed additive further

17. The animal feed additive of claim 16, wherein the protease has an amino acid sequence that has an amino acid sequence that has an identity of at least 90% to SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or SEQ ID NO: 2.

18. The animal feed additive of claim 17, wherein the protease has an amino acid sequence that has an amino acid sequence that has an identity of at least 95% to SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. The animal feed additive of claim 18, wherein the protease has an amino acid sequence that has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

22. An animal feed composition, comprising a crude protein content of 50-800 g/kg and at least one acid-stable protease that has an amino acid sequence that has an identity of at least 70% to SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or SEQ ID NO: 2.

25. A method for improving the nutritional value of an animal feed, comprising adding an animal feed composition of claim 20-22 to the animal feed.

28. A method for improving the nutritional value of a vegetable protein, comprising adding at least one acid-stable protease to the vegetable protein or protein source, wherein the protease has an amino acid sequence that has an identity of at least 70% to SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or SEQ ID NO: 2.